

What is claimed is:

1. A contract generation and administration system comprising: a single contract database comprising data obtained from multiple contract documents, said data organized into fields comprising: draft contract status, contract identifier, contract type, effective date, and expiration date; and a field comprising obligation type, owner, status or due date; said system capable of generating reports based on said database, said reports obtainable through search of said fields; and said database being selectively accessible by a plurality of users.
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2. The system of claim 1 wherein the contract documents are selected from the group consisting of: confidentiality contracts, software licenses, technology licenses, lease contracts and service contracts.
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3. The system of claim 1 wherein the contract documents are licenses.
4. The system of claim 1 wherein said fields further comprise at least one of those selected from the group consisting of: obligation triggering event, royalty basis, invoice due date, payment due date, payment received date, payment schedule, tax, currency and invoice status.
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5. The system of claim 1 wherein said draft contract status field indicates whether a contract document is being reviewed and/or executed.
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6. The system of claim 1 wherein said obligation type field is substantially defined as training, meeting, shipping, payment, receipt of payment, reporting, start-up, secrecy, restricted use, maintenance or technology transfer.
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7. The system of claim 1 wherein a user's access to one or more parts of said database is based on contract type, user's job description, user's title, user's business unit, and/or user's authority level.
- 5 8. The system of claim 1 wherein said reports are selected from the group consisting of: accrued revenue, obligations due, obligations owed, customer history, open invoice, depreciation, corporate plan, stewardship, implementation plan, payments requiring invoice, anticipated payments, audit, pending contracts, active contracts and expiring contracts.
- 10 9. The system of claim 1 wherein said database further comprises standard contract forms or clauses.
- 15 10. The system of claim 1 wherein said database further comprises standard invoice forms or standard correspondence.
11. The system of claim 1 wherein said database is capable of using its data to generate invoices and correspondence.
- 20 12. A contract generation and administration method comprising:
 drafting a contract or receiving a draft contract, said contract draft having one or more obligations;
- 25 storing data obtained from the draft in a single contract database comprising data obtained from multiple contract documents;
- 30 after execution of said draft, storing data obtained from the resulting contract in said database, said data organized into fields comprising: draft contract status, contract identifier, contract type, effective date, and expiration date; and a field comprising obligation type, status, owner or due date; and said database capable of generating reports based on said

data, said reports obtainable through search of said fields; and said database being selectively accessible by a plurality of users; and

retrieving from said database a report of outstanding obligations.

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13. The method of claim 12 further comprising the step of analyzing said report to determine which, if any, of said obligations should be acted upon.

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14. The method of claim 13 further comprising the step of deciding, based on said analysis, whether to act upon one or more of said obligations.

15. The method of claim 13 further comprising the step of taking action based on said analysis.

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16. The method of claim 12 further comprising the step of taking action based on an analysis of said report and updating said database to reflect said action.

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17. The method of claim 12 further comprising the step of routing the contract draft to one or more parties for review and/or execution.

18. The method of claim 17 further comprising the step of storing review or execution data in the contract database.

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19. The method of claim 12 wherein the draft is selected from the group consisting of: draft confidentiality contracts, draft software licenses, draft technology licenses and draft service contracts.

20. The method of claim 12 wherein the draft is a draft license contract.

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21. The method of claim 12 wherein the report is organized by obligation status, type, owner, or due date.

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22. The method of claim 12 wherein the report lists outstanding financial obligations.
- 5 23. The method of claim 12 wherein said fields further comprise at least one of those selected from the group consisting of: obligation triggering event, royalty basis, invoice due date, payment due date, payment received date, payment schedule, tax, currency and invoice status.
- 10 24. The method of claim 12 wherein a user's access to one or more parts of said database is based on contract type, user's job description, user's title, user's business unit, and/or user's authority level.
- 15 25. The method of claim 12 wherein said contract database is used to indicate whether a contract document is being reviewed and/or executed.
- 20 26. The method of claim 12 wherein said database further comprises standard contract forms or clauses.
- 25 27. The method of claim 12 wherein said database further comprises standard invoice forms or standard correspondence.
28. The method of claim 12 further comprising the step of storing the invoice in the database.
29. A contract generation and administration method comprising:
- drafting a contract or receiving a draft contract, said draft contract having one or more obligations;
- 30 routing the draft contract to one or more parties for review and/or execution;

storing review and/or execution data in a single contract database comprising data obtained from multiple contract documents;

5 storing, after execution of said draft, data obtained from the resulting contract in said database said data organized into fields comprising: draft contract status, contract identifier, contract type, effective date, and expiration date; and a field comprising obligation type, status, owner or due date; and said database capable of generating reports based on said data, said reports obtainable through search of said fields, and said database being selectively accessible by a plurality of users; and

10 retrieving from said database a report of outstanding financial obligations.

15 30. The method of claim 29 further comprising the step of analyzing said report to determine which, if any, of said obligations should be acted upon.

20 31. The method of claim 30 further comprising the step of deciding, based on said analysis, whether to act upon one or more of said financial obligations.

32. The method of claim 30 further comprising the step of either making or receiving payment based on said analysis.

25 33. The method of claim 32 further comprising the step of updating said database to reflect said payment or receipt of payment.

30 34. The method of claim 29 wherein the draft is selected from the group consisting of: draft confidentiality contracts, draft software licenses, draft technology licenses and draft service contracts.

35. The method of claim 29 wherein the draft is a draft license contract.

- DRAFTING & REVIEW
36. The method of claim 29 wherein the report indicates obligation status, type, owner and/or due date.
 - 5 37. The method of claim 29 wherein said fields further comprise at least one of those selected from the group consisting of: obligation triggering event, royalty basis, invoice due date, payment due date, payment received date, payment schedule, tax, currency and invoice status.
 - 10 38. The method of claim 29 wherein said contract database is used to indicate whether a contract document is being reviewed and/or executed.
 - 15 39. The method of claim 29 wherein a user's access to one or more parts of said database is based on contract type, user's job description, user's title, user's business unit and/or user's authority level.
 40. The method of claim 29 wherein said database further comprises standard contract forms or clauses.
 - 20 41. The method of claim 29 wherein said database further comprises standard invoice forms or standard correspondence.
 42. The method of claim 29 further comprising the step of obtaining an invoice generated automatically from said database.
 - 25 43. A contract generation and administration method comprising:
 - drafting a contract or receiving a draft contract, said draft contract having one or more obligations;
 - 30 routing the draft contract to one or more for review and/or execution;

storing review and/or execution data in a single contract database comprising data obtained from multiple contract documents;

5 storing, after contract execution, data obtained from the resulting contract in said database, said data organized into fields comprising: draft contract status, contract identifier, contract type, effective date, and expiration date; and a field comprising obligation type, status, owner or due date; and said system capable of generating reports based on said database, said reports obtainable through search of said fields, and said database being selectively accessible by a plurality of users;

10 retrieving from said database a report of outstanding obligations;

15 analyzing said report to determine which, if any, of said obligations should be acted upon;

 taking action based on said analysis; and

 updating said database to reflect said action.

20 44. The method of claim 43 wherein the draft is selected from the group consisting of: draft confidentiality contracts, draft software licenses, draft technology licenses and draft service contracts.

25 45. The method of claim 43 wherein the draft is a draft license.

 46. The method of claim 43 wherein said obligations are financial obligations.

 47. The method of claim 43 wherein the report is organized by obligation status, type, owner and/or due date.

48. The method of claim 43 wherein said fields further comprise at least one of those selected from the group consisting of: obligation triggering event, royalty basis, invoice due date, payment due date, payment received date, payment schedule, tax, currency and invoice status.

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49. The method of claim 43 wherein said contract database is used to indicate whether a contract document is being reviewed and/or executed.

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50. The method of claim 43 wherein a user's access to one or more parts of said database is based on contract type, user's job description, user's title, user's business unit and/or user's authority level.

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51. The method of claim 43 wherein said database further comprises standard contract forms or clauses.

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52. The method of claim 43 wherein said database further comprises standard invoice forms or standard correspondence.

53. The method of claim 43 further comprising the step of obtaining an invoice generated automatically from said database.

54. A contract generation and administration method comprising:

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drafting a contract or receiving a draft contract, said draft contract proposing to obligate a party to make one or more payments;

routing the draft contract to one or more parties for review and/or execution;

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storing review and/or execution data in a single contract database comprising data obtained from multiple contract documents;

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5 storing, after execution of said draft, data obtained from the resulting contract in said database, said data organized into fields comprising: draft contract status, contract identifier, contract type, effective date, expiration date and payment due date; and said database capable of generating reports based on said data; said reports obtainable through search of said fields, and said database being selectively accessible by a plurality of users;

10 retrieving from said database a list of payments due;

15 obtaining from said database an invoice or payment letter wherein said invoice or payment letter is generated automatically using said stored data; and

20 sending the invoice or payment letter.

15. The method of claim 54 wherein said fields further comprise at least one of those selected from the group consisting of: obligation triggering event, royalty basis, invoice due date, payment due date, payment received date, payment schedule, tax, currency and invoice status.
20. The method of claim 54 wherein said contract database is used to indicate whether a contract document is being reviewed and/or executed.
25. The method of claim 54 wherein a user's access to one or more parts of said database is based on contract type, user's job description, user's title, user's business unit, and/or user's authority level.
30. The method of claim 54 wherein said database further comprises standard contract forms or clauses.
35. The method of claim 54 wherein said database further comprises standard invoice forms or standard correspondence.

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60. The method of claim 54 further comprising the step of updating the database to reflect that payment was made or to reflect receipt of payment.
- 5 61. The method of claim 54 wherein the draft is a draft license contract.
62. A contract generation and administration method comprising:
- 10 drafting a contract or receiving a draft contract, said draft contract proposing to obligate a party to make one or more payments;
- 15 routing the draft contract to one or more parties for review and/or execution;
- 20 storing review and/or execution data in a single contract database comprising data obtained from multiple contract documents;
- 25 storing, after execution of said draft, data obtained from the resulting contract in said database, said data comprising payment data;
- 30 generating from said database a list of payments due;
- obtaining from said database an invoice or payment letter wherein said invoice or payment letter is generated automatically using the data stored in said database;
- sending the invoice or payment letter; and
- updating the database to reflect that payment was made or to reflect receipt of payment.

63. The method of claim 62 wherein said data is organized into fields comprising: draft contract status, contract identifier, contract type, effective date, expiration date and payment due date; and said database capable of generating reports based on said data, said reports obtainable through search of said fields, and said database being selectively accessible by a plurality of users.

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64. The method of claim 62 wherein said contract database is used to indicate whether a contract document is being reviewed and/or executed.

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65. The method of claim 62 wherein said fields further comprise at least one of those selected from the group consisting of: obligation triggering event, royalty basis, invoice due date, payment due date, payment received date, payment schedule, tax, currency and invoice status.

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66. The method of claim 62 wherein a user's access to one or more parts of said database is based on contract type, user's job description, user's title, user's business unit, and/or user's authority level.

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67. The method of claim 62 wherein said database further comprises standard contract forms or clauses.

68. The method of claim 62 wherein said database further comprises standard invoice forms or standard correspondence.

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69. A contract generation and administration method comprising:

drafting a contract or receiving a draft contract, said draft contract proposing to obligate a party to make one or more payments;

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routing the draft contract to one or more parties for review and/or execution;

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- storing review and/or execution data in a single contract database comprising data obtained from multiple contract documents;
- 5 obtaining from the database an indication as to whether the draft is being reviewed and/or executed.
- 10 storing, after execution of said draft, data obtained from the resulting contract in said database, said data comprising payment triggering event data; and
- 15 generating from said database a report of payment triggering events.
- 20 70. The method of claim 69 further comprising the step of analyzing said report and deciding to make payment based on said analysis.
- 25 71. The method of claim 69 further comprising the step of obtaining from said database a payment letter generated automatically using the data stored in said database.
- 30 72. The method of claim 69 further comprising the steps of sending the payment letter and updating the database to reflect that payment was made.
- 25 73. The method of claim 69 wherein said data is organized into multiple fields comprising: draft contract status, contract identifier, contract type, effective date, expiration date and payment due date; and said database capable of generating reports based on said data, said reports obtainable through search of said fields, and said database being selectively accessible by a plurality of users.
- 30 74. The method of claim 73 wherein said fields further comprise at least one of those selected from the group consisting of: obligation triggering event,

royalty basis, invoice due date, payment due date, payment received date, payment schedule, tax, currency and invoice status.

- 5 75. The method of claim 69 wherein a user's access to one or more parts of said database is based on contract type, user's job description, user's title, user's business unit, and/or user's authority level.
- 10 76. A contract generation and administration method comprising:
- 10 drafting a contract or receiving a draft contract, said draft contract proposing to obligate a party to make one or more payments;
- 15 routing the draft contract to one or more parties for review and/or execution;
- 20 storing review and/or execution data in a single contract database comprising data obtained from multiple contract documents;
- 20 obtaining from the database an indication as to whether the draft is being reviewed and/or executed.
- 25 storing, after execution of said draft, data obtained from the resulting contract in said database, said data comprising payment triggering event data;
- 25 generating from said database a report of payment triggering events;

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analyzing the report to determine whether payment should be made;

making payment; and

5 updating the database to reflect that payment was made.

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